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1011 North Grandview Avenue
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INSIDE: Information on Central
Los Angeles Area New High School #1

Fact Sheet
October 2001



Central Los Angeles Area New High School #1

Soil Removal Action

It is DTSC's mission to protect public health and the environment from harmful exposure to hazardous substances.

State of California



California Environmental
Protection Agency



Introduction

The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) conducted an environmental investigation called a Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (PEA) on the property for the Central Los Angeles Area New High School #1, known as the Metromedia Site. The PEA was conducted under the oversight of the California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). The proposed school site is located at the southeast corner of Sunset Boulevard and Van Ness Avenue in Los Angeles, California. The PEA was conducted to determine if any harmful hazardous substances are present on the school site that pose a threat to public health or the environment.

The site investigation detected arsenic in soil samples in concentrations that exceed human health risk standards. DTSC concurred with the PEA recommendation that approximately 125 cubic yards of soil be removed to eliminate the risk posed by this hazardous substance. Once the contaminated soil is removed, the potential risk associated with this compound will be eliminated and the site will be considered safe.

The URS Corporation, on behalf of LAUSD, has prepared a **draft Removal Action Workplan** (RAW) for the cleanup of the contaminated soil in response to the PEA findings. The purpose of this fact sheet is to inform the community of the investigation results and to provide the opportunity to comment on the RAW during the 30-day public comment period starting October 25, 2001.

Site Description

The Metromedia Site is located on approximately 12.36 acres in the Hollywood District. The site is bounded on the north by West Sunset Boulevard and commercial properties, including Midas Muffler; on the south by Fountain Avenue and residences; on the west by Van Ness Avenue, Le Conte Middle School, and the KTLA Channel 5 studios; and on the east by the Hollywood Freeway, Wilton Place, and commercial properties. Two apartment buildings, the Wilton Building, a parking structure, and an asphalt parking lot are located on the site. A radio station (KLSX) and Metromedia Technologies occupy a few offices in the Wilton building.

Public Comment Period

Announcing a 30-day public review and comment period on the draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) for the Central Los Angeles Area New High School #1 Site. The DTSC encourages you to take an active interest in the issues affecting the removal of hazardous substances at this proposed school. The comment period is from:

October 25 to November 23, 2001

The complete RAW report and other related project documents are available at the local Information Repositories listed at the end of this fact sheet.

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web-site at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

Site Investigation

Evaluation of the site occurred in two phases. The initial phase included site assessment activities, consisting of soil gas, soil and groundwater sampling, conducted between August and September 2000 as part of the PEA. Additionally, historical information was evaluated and a health risk evaluation was conducted. A PEA Report was prepared in August 2000. The second phase of assessment consisted of confirmational soil sampling for arsenic conducted in March 2001.

PEA Environmental Investigation Results

The PEA investigation found elevated concentrations of arsenic. The highest arsenic concentrations were typically detected in the 5-foot samples. The PEA Report recommended that a limited soil removal action is required before a “No Further Action” determination could be provided. It is estimated that 125 cubic yards of soil in this area are contaminated. The contaminated soil generally exists no deeper than 10 feet below ground surface. Based on the information developed during the PEA, DTSC concurred with the removal action recommendation for the arsenic impacted area.

Removal Action Work Plan (RAW) Scope

The draft RAW, prepared in August 2001, identifies and screens possible removal action alternatives. Removal action alternatives were screened and evaluated on the basis of their effectiveness, feasibility, and cost. Screening of several cleanup techniques using these criteria was conducted to select removal actions for further evaluation. Based on this screening, three possible alternatives were selected for further evaluation:

Alternative 1 – No Action

Alternative 2 – Containment through Surface Capping

Alternative 3 – Excavation and Offsite Disposal

Based on the risk assessment conducted in the PEA and removal action selection process, Alternative 3, Excavation and Offsite Disposal, has been selected as the preferred cleanup alternative. This alternative was selected because it was determined to be the most protective of human health and the environment, easily implemented, and cost effective.

Proposed Removal Action and Dust Control Measures

Prior to any excavation, the contaminated soil areas will be marked using stakes or marking paint to facilitate the excavation process. The site will be secured using temporary fencing to reduce the potential for unauthorized personnel to enter the excavation area. Conventional construction equipment, such as a front-end loader equipped with a backhoe, will be used to excavate the soil and load the soil directly into transport trucks. It is anticipated that approximately 10 transport truckloads will be needed to haul the contaminated soil from the site.

The soil will be excavated, to the extent possible, in a manner that reduces the potential to generate dust. While on the property, all vehicles will maintain slow speeds for safety purposes and for dust control. Dust control will be obtained by lightly spraying or misting the work areas with

water. Water mist may also be used on soil placed in the transport trucks. Additionally, after the soil is loaded into the transport trucks, the soil will be covered to prevent soil from spilling or blowing out of the truck during transport to the disposal facility. The soil will then be transported to an approved disposal facility. Air quality monitoring will be conducted during excavation and soil handling activities to measure for potential emissions. In addition, airborne dust monitoring will be conducted to verify and document dust control effectiveness. When the excavation work is complete, confirmation sampling will be conducted to verify that all the contaminated soil has been removed. Once this verification has been approved by DTSC, it is anticipated that the excavated area will be backfilled and compacted with certified clean material consistent with school construction specifications.

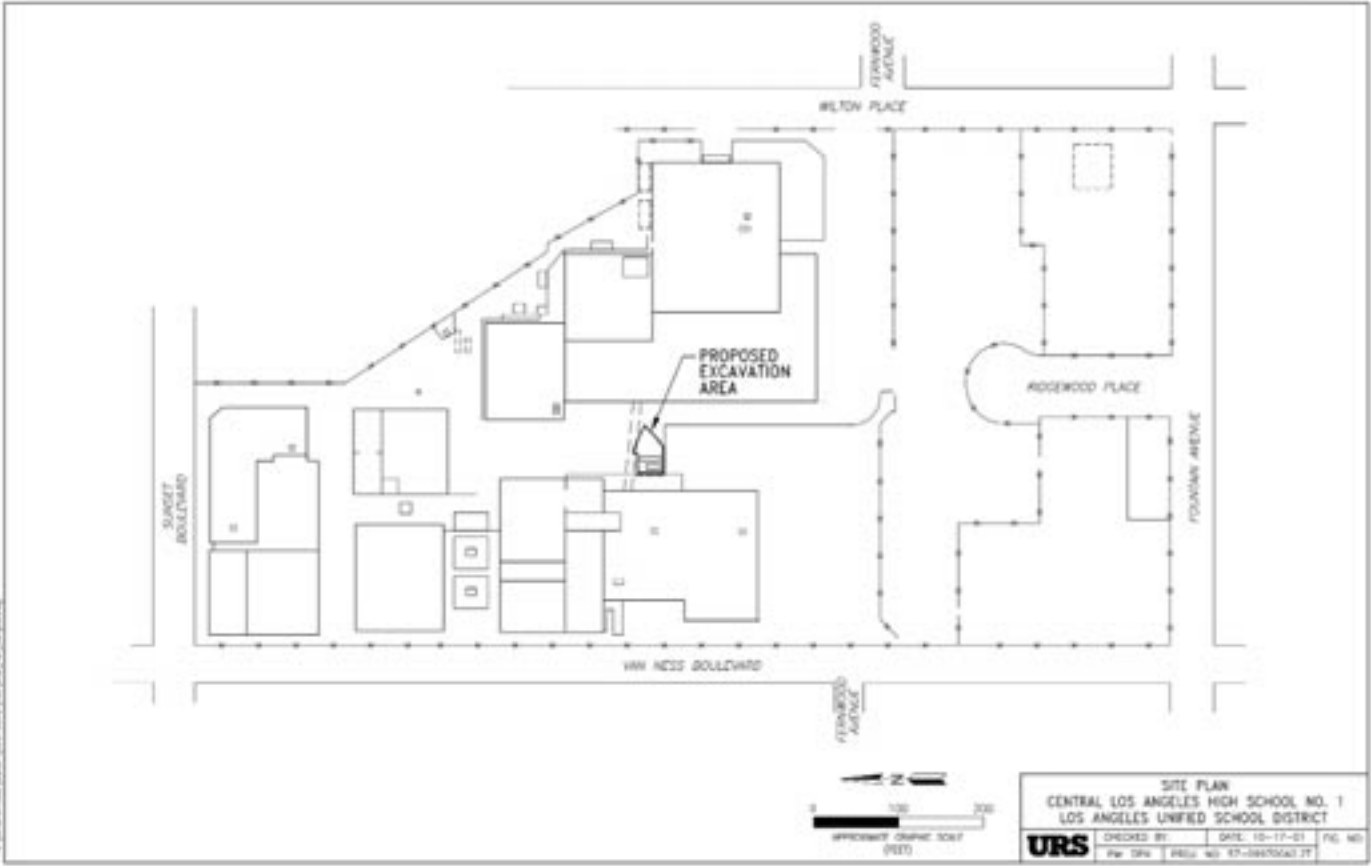
Notice of Exemption (NOE)

DTSC has prepared a NOE for this project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The project is exempt since it will not have a significant effect on the environment due to the relatively small volume, short project duration, and controlled manner in which contaminated soil will be excavated and transported.

What Happens Next?

Prior to making a final decision on the Central Los Angeles Area New High School #1 Site Draft Removal Action Workplan, DTSC will receive comments during the **30-day public comment period** which ends November 23, 2001. Comments may be submitted in writing to: *Ms. Robbie Morris, Project Manager, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 1011 North Grandview Avenue, Glendale, California 91201.* Comments must be postmarked by November 23, 2001.

After the public comment period, DTSC will evaluate all of the submitted comments. If the RAW is approved, fieldwork may begin in December 2001. The removal action, including soil excavation, transportation and treatment of excavated soil, confirmation soil sampling and analysis, and site restoration will last approximately five weeks.



For More Information

If you have questions regarding the DTSC investigation or the proposed removal action please contact:

Treva Miller, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (818) 551-2846

Robbie Morris, DTSC Project Manager, (818) 551-2941

Jeanne Garcia, Media Contact, (818) 551-2176

Si desea información en español, comuníquese con:

Eloy Florez, Especialista en Participación Pública de el DTSC, al (818) 551-2875

LAUSD Contact

David Jensen, CDM Program Manager, LAUSD Office of Environmental Health and Safety, (213) 633-8426

Si desea información en español, comuníquese con:

Sr. Jose De Paz, Oficina de Alcance a la Comunidad del LAUSD (LAUSD Community Outreach Office), al (213) 633-8980 o por correo electrónico: jdp1848@msn.com.

Project documents are available for public review at the following locations:

Francis Howard Goldwyn Hollywood Branch Library
1623 N. Ivar Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90028
Hours: Monday – Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Friday, Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Sunday 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Department of Toxic Substances Control
Regional Records Office
1011 N. Grandview Avenue
Glendale, CA 91201
Contact: Jone Barrio
Phone: (818) 551-2886
Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Los Angeles Unified School District
Office of Environmental Health and Safety
1449 S. San Pedro Street
Los Angeles, CA 90015
Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.